

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 177843  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER/HLK  
APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

H - MR. BENNET

S/S-O:OTTO

P - MR. HABIB

PM: MR KOCHANNEK (DRAFT)

T - MR. BROWN (DRAFT)

-----127364 290326Z /62

O 290308Z JUL 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177843

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IR, US

SUBJECT: AWACS

1. YOU SHOULD GET WORD TO THE SHAH AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE  
OF THE FOLLOWING STATE OF PLAY WITH REGARD TO PENDING LOA  
FOR AWACS, SAYING THAT I HAVE ASKED YOU TO CONVEY THESE  
POINTS TO THE SHAH SO THAT HE WOULD HAVE PROMPT AND ACCURATE  
UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION AS WE SEE IT.

2. IN THE FACE OF LETTERS FROM SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BYRD  
AND HUMPHREY REQUESTING WITHDRAWAL OF LOA AND RESUBMISSION  
IN SEPTEMBER, THE PRESIDENT WROTE TO HUMPHREY MORNING OF  
JULY 28 REAFFIRMING STRONG SUPPORT FOR LOA. THE PRESIDENT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 177843

AT SAME TIME STATED THAT VARIOUS ASSURANCES SOUGHT BY  
HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO PROPOSED AWACS SALE  
WOULD BE PROVIDED BY THE ADMINISTRATION. (EXCHANGE OF  
LETTERS BETWEEN HUMPHREY AND PRESIDENT BY SEPTTEL; YOU MAY  
SHARE WITH THE SHAH.)

3. FOLLOWING HEARING ON MORNING JULY 28 AT WHICH ACTING SECDEF DUNCAN AND I TESTIFIED ON BEHALF OF AWACS PROPOSAL, FULL HIRC VOTED 19 TO 17 IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL. YOU SHOULD TELL SHAH THAT WE HAD EXPECTED VOTE TO BE CLOSE, BUT WE WERE SURPRISED AND VERY DISAPPOINTED BY ACTUAL OUTCOME.

4. FULL SFRC WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET ON AWACS PROPOSAL DURING AFTERNOON JULY 28. WE HAD EXPECTED THAT SFRC WOULD SIMILARLY VOTE IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL. IN VIEW OF HOUSE VOTE AND FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, THE PRESIDENT DECIDED THAT IT WAS PREFERABLE TO WITHDRAW LOA FROM CONGRESS AT THIS TIME SO AS TO AVOID ANY FURTHER PREJUDICE TO AWACS PROPOSAL AND ENHANCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF ITS SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IN CONGRESS AT EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE. MAJOR SENATE CONCERN HAS BEEN NEED FOR FURTHER TIME FOR OFFICIAL CONSIDERATION, HAVING IN MIND ESPECIALLY CROWDED LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR BEFORE ADJOURNMENT NEXT WEEK. IN ANNOUNCING THE TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF THE AWACS LOA, THE PRESIDENT ADDED THAT HE WOULD RESUBMIT IT ON SEPTEMBER 7, THE DAY THE CONGRESS RETURNS FROM FORTHCOMING SUMMER RECESS. THE 30-DAY PERIOD FOR CONGRESSIONAL CONSIDERATION WILL COMMENCE AGAIN ON SEPTEMBER 7. THE PRESIDENT ALSO NOTED AT THE SAME TIME THAT GOING FORWARD WITH AWACS SALE WILL NOT ONLY STRENGTHEN IRAN BUT ALSO SERVE OUR INTERNATIONAL INTERESTS AS WELL. FINALLY THE PRESIDENT STATED THAT, BASED ON ASSURANCES WE ARE PREPARED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 177843

TO PROVIDE REGARDING SECURITY AND MANAGEMENT FOR AWACS (WHICH WE FEEL CERTAIN WILL BE FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO GOI), HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE SALE WILL BE APPROVED.

5. YOU SHOULD ADD THAT WE WILL, OF COURSE, INFORM GOI AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE OF PROVISIONS TO BE CONTAINED IN NEW LOA IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASSURANCES AGREED BETWEEN SFRC AND PRESIDENT. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD ASSURE SHAH THAT IT IS THE PRESIDENT'S FIRM INTENTION TO SEE THIS TRANSACTION THROUGH TO SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION. WE WISHED THE SHAH TO HAVE THIS DIRECT ACCOUNT OF STATE OF PLAY SO THAT HE WOULD UNDERSTAND THE REASONS WHY THE ADMINISTRATION FELT IT NECESSARY TO WITHDRAW LOA TEMPORARILY. WE REGRET THE SHORT DELAY THAT IS ENTAILED BUT BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE VERY LITTLE EFFECT, IF ANY, ON ACTUAL SCHEDULING OF AWACS PROGRAM FOR IRAN. WE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP HIS MAJESTY INFORMED OF FURTHER COURSE OF PASSAGE OF LOA THROUGH THE CONGRESS.

6. FYI: AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI HAS BEEN KEPT WELL INFORMED BY US AND KEY SENATORS. END FYI. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIR DEFENSE, AWACS, MILITARY SALES, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, WARNING SYSTEMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE177843  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** SSOBER/HLK  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770271-1027  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t197707102/aaaahdkn.tel  
**Line Count:** 120  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE  
**Message ID:** 4d028762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1724980  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971103  
**Subject:** AWACS  
**TAGS:** MASS, IR, US  
**To:** TEHRAN  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4d028762-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009